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11-14-2011

# Faculty Recital: Jeffrey Gray, bass trombone and Harold Reynolds, trombone

Harold Reynolds

Jeffrey Gray

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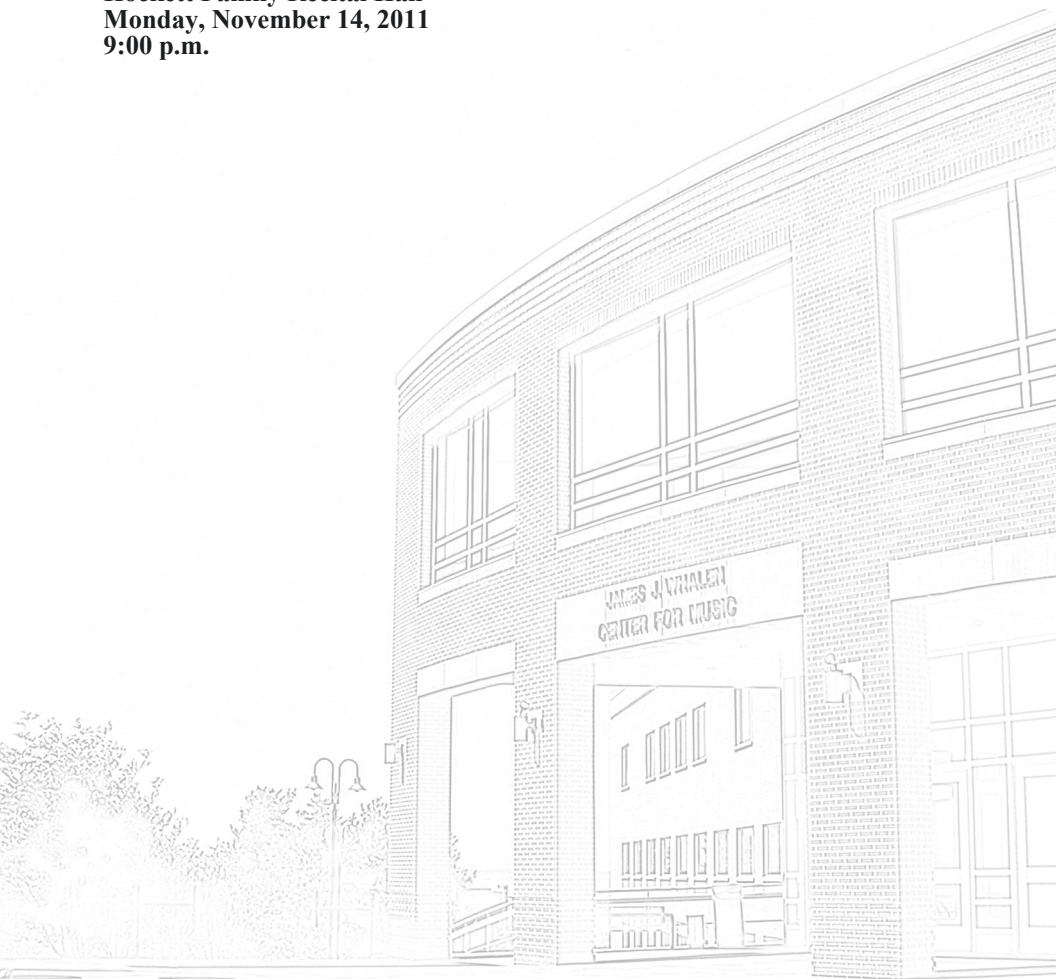
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**Faculty Recital:  
Jeffrey Gray, bass trombone and  
Harold Reynolds, trombone**

**Diane Birr, piano**

**Hockett Family Recital Hall  
Monday, November 14, 2011  
9:00 p.m.**



**ITHACA COLLEGE**

**School of Music**

## **Program**

Concerto for Bass Trombone (2000)

I. Paradise Utopia

II. Sorrow Floats

III. James Brown in the Twilight Zone

Chris Brubeck

(b. 1952)

A Winter's Night (2010)

Kevin McKee

(b. 1980)

Rhapsody (1997)

I. Andante Misterioso

II. Allegretto Cantabile

III. Allegro Molto

Eric Ewazen

(b. 1954)

Pastorale (1996)

Eric Ewazen

adapted by Douglas Yeo

(b. 1954)

## **Biographies**

### **Diane Birr**

Diane Birr, Professor of piano, has taught at the college since 1993. She has collaborated with numerous vocalists and instrumentalists in recitals and master classes throughout the United States, and in Australia, Canada, France, Scotland, Austria, and Norway. She also has frequently been featured as a pianist on the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra's Chamber Music Series and in concerts at Ithaca College. Dr. Birr has served as an official accompanist for the Music Teachers National Association's (MTNA) national competitions, the International Double Reed Society Conference, the International Horn Society as well as the International Trombone Association's conferences. For sixteen years Birr served on the faculty of International Workshops, a two-week music and arts festival held in locations around the world, where she performed in recitals and master classes, as well as coached chamber music. She is a member of the TrOIca trio with IC colleagues Kim Dunnick (trumpet) and Steven Mauk (saxophone). The trio released its first CD recording featuring works by Lawrence, Rivier, Bronner, Podgaitis and Satterwhite in June 2010. TrOIca was invited and performed at the 2010 International Trumpet Guild Conference in Sydney, Australia, where they premiered a work written for the trio by Australian composer Margery Smith. Dr. Birr is active in the Music Teachers National Association, currently serving as a member of the MTNA Board of Directors in her capacity as Eastern Division Director. She is also currently serving as the President of the Alpha Nu chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda, as well as President-elect of Ithaca College's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

She formerly taught at the University of Northern Iowa. Her D.M.A. degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music is from the Eastman School of Music. During the summers Prof. Birr teaches and performs at the Ithaca College Summer Piano Institute and at the Rocky Ridge Music Center in Estes Park, CO.

### **Jeffrey Gray**

Jeffrey Gray is currently the bass trombonist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the bass trombonist with the Grant Park Orchestra of Chicago. He joined the Grant Park Music Festival Orchestra in 2003. Mr. Gray was previously the bass trombonist with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra from 2000 to 2011. Mr. Gray received his formal music training at The Juilliard School and Bowling Green State University. His teachers include Don Harwood, Joe Alessi, Steve Norrell, Blair Bollinger, Dennis Smith, and Paul Hunt. Jeff has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and was a member of the National Repertory Orchestra. He can be heard on recordings with the Grant Park Orchestra, the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, and the Juilliard Wind Ensemble.

In 2000, Mr. Gray was the grand prize winner of two international competitions; the Lewis Van Haney Philharmonic Prize Competition and the Donald Yaxley Solo Competition, both sponsored by the International Trombone Association. He is one of the few trombonists to win both international competitions in the same year. As a result of these competitions, he was a featured performer at the 2000 International Trombone Festival in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Mr. Gray began teaching at Ithaca College in 2006. He teaches trombone, bass trombone, brass chamber music, and conducts a seminar on brass orchestral repertoire.

## Harold Reynolds

Harold Reynolds is a native of San Antonio, Texas. Following graduation from Highlands High School (where he began formal trombone studies with Calvin Schultz,) he attended Sam Houston State University for one year where he studied trombone with Ralph Liese (Houston Symphony) and jazz improvisation with Jerry Coker. In January of 1967 he earned his Bachelors degree in Music Education from St. Mary's University (San Antonio,) where he studied trombone with Richard Powell and served as Assistant Principal Trombone with the San Antonio Symphony from 1964-'66.

From 1964-'70 Hal served in the United States Navy as both a Radarman (Naval Reserves) and a Musician in the Pacific Fleet (including duty in Vietnam, 1968-69.) After being honorably discharged, Hal began his public school teaching career in Texas (1971-'76, and 1983-'87.) He completed his Masters degree in Performance at Southwest Texas State University in 1976, studying trombone with Dr. Jeff Williams. He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music in 1989, where he studied trombone with Donald Knaub, George Osborn and John Marcellus. He has taught trombone and music education courses at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro (1979-'83) and later at the University of Texas at San Antonio (1987-'88.) He has been Professor of Trombone at Ithaca College since 1988. Since moving to Ithaca, Hal has served as Principal Trombone of the Tri-Cities Opera Orchestra (Binghamton, NY) from 1989–2007, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra (1989-'95,) and has been the first call sub for the Glimmerglass Opera Orchestra (1989-present) and the Syracuse Symphony (1990-present,) where he has performed extensively over the past fifteen years.

Throughout his career he has been an active classical and jazz performer. He has been guest soloist with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, the United States Navy Band, the United States Army Band (on three separate occasions), "76 Trombones + 4," (Las Vegas) as well as with numerous high school and college bands and orchestras. As a jazz performer, Hal toured with Johnny Carson (w/Phyllis McGuire and Harry "Sweets" Edison) and played trombone with the Gap Mangione Big Band, as well as numerous backup bands for performing artists such as Frank Sinatra Jr., James Brown, Charlie Pride, Clay Aikens, Jerry Lewis, Eddie Daniels, Aretha Franklin, the Temptations, Natalie Cole, Kenny Rogers, Ben Vereen, Liza Minelli, Dudley Moore, Joe Williams, Martha Ray, Johnny Mathis, and many others. Hal is an active adjudicator and a clinician for Edwards Trombones, Inc. In June of 2004, he was the Host of the 33rd International Trombone Festival held at Ithaca College. He is a Lifetime Member of the International Trombone Association, and was recently inducted into the all discipline honorary society Phi Kappa Phi.

*Now in its second century, the Ithaca College School of Music affirms its fundamental belief that music and the arts are essential components of the human experience. The School of Music prepares students to be world-class professionals and the music leaders of tomorrow - ready to transform individuals and communities by advancing the art of music.*